

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T STATE 153656

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT NDJAMENA 2344 ACTION STATE PARIS TRIPOLI

QUOTE E C R E T NDJAMENA 2344

EXDIS

PARIS PASS TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E. O. 11652: XGDS 1 AND 3
TAGS: FR, CD, LY
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH JOURNIAC

1. I HAD ONE-HOUR CONVERSATION WITH FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL
AIDE JOURNIAC EVENING OF JUNE 14. AS FRENCH AMPASSADOR
EXCUSED HIMSELF EARLY, ONLY THE TWO OF US WERE PRESENT.
CONVERSATION CONCENTRATED NEARLY COMPLETELY ON CHAD,
BUT JOURNAC MADE A FEW GENERAL REFERENCES TO THE
QUOTE FUNDAMENTAL UNQUOTE CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY
TOWARDS AFRICA THAT WAS UNDERWAY. HE SAID FRENCH
HAD BEEN DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM
IN PARIS AND THAT WAS A PLEASURE TO DEAL WITH SOMEONE
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WHO UNDERSTOOD AFRICAN PROBLEMS, DREAMS, AND FOIBLES
SO WELL. JOURNIAC RECOGNIZED THAT EVEN IF A CHANGE IN
POLICY WAS IN TRAIN, CONCRETE RESULTS WOULD BE SLOW
IN APPEARING, PARTICULARLY IN COUNTRIES LIKE CHAD.
HE WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT MUCH MORE WAS INVOLVED
IN AFRICA THAN RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIA AND, WHILE
AGREEING THAT ALL BLACK AFRICANS HAD AN EMOTIONAL

INVOLVEMENT IN ANY SITUATION INVOLVING WHITE DOMINATION ON THE CONTINENT, HE NOTED THAT MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAD OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH WERE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TO THEM THAN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA.

2. HE HAD JUST COME FROM TWO SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT MALLOUM AND FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUGUE AND, WHILE HE DID NOT GO INTO THE PARTICULARS OF ANY PLAN HE HAD PUT FORWARD, HE SAID THAT BOTH WERE ELATED OVER RECENT MILITARY SUCCESSES, BUT SEEMED TO REALIZE THAT FRENCH COULD NOT STAY FOREVER AND SOME SORT OF POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION MUST BE REACHED. HE LEAVES TODAY FOR KHARTOUM TO SEE NIMEIRI, BUT SAID THAT THE LATTER WAS DISCOURAGED WITH THE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE LIBYANS WERE BEING QUOTE IMPOSSIBLE UNQUOTE IN REGARD TO RESUMPTION OF TALKS. IN ADDITION, HE STATED THAT IF HE WERE A CHADIAN HE WOULD FIND PRESENT NEGOTIATING FORM COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE: LIBYA IS THE REAL ENEMY, NIGER IS AFRAID OF LIBYA AND SUDAN IS TORN BETWEEN ITS DESIRE FOR RAPPROCHEMENT WITH LIBYA AND ITS FEAR OF FUTURE SUBVERSION FROM A LIBYA-DOMINATED CHAD. AS RESULT, CHAD FINDS ITSELF IN ALMOST AUTOMATIC ISOLATION EVERY TIME IT SITS DOWN AT A CONFERENCE.

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3. IN JOURNALS' VIEW ANY SOLUTION IN CHAD WOULD BE TEMPORARY IN NATURE (3 OR 4 YEARS) AND WOULD INVOLVE A DE FACTO PARTITION OF CHAD BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH. HE NOTED THAT MALLOUM SEEMED TO ACCEPT THE UNDERLYING PREMISE OF THIS ARGUMENT. HE WENT TO SAY THAT WAS DOUBTFUL IF REBEL LEADER GOUKOUNI COULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY COMPROMISE GOVERNMENT IN NDJAMENA AS HE WAS CLEARLY A PUPPET OF LIBYA AND THAT A GOVERNMENT IN WHICH HE HAD INFLUENCE WOULD BE DANGER NOT ONLY TO NIGER AND SUDAN, BUT TO THE CAE, CAMEROON, AND NIGERIA AS WELL. HE SAID THE INTERNAL COHESION OF ALL FIVE OF THESE COUNTRIES WAS FRAGILE AND THAT QADHAFI-BACKED GOVERNMENT IN NDJAMENA WOULD CAUSE HAVOC IN THE AREA IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. IN HIS OPINION, LIBYAN DESIGNS ON CHAD WENT DEEPER THAN QADHAFI'S MESSIANIC DREAMS, AND INVOLVED A LATENT LIBYAN IMPERIALISM WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENT EVEN BEFORE QADHAFI ARRIVED ON THE SCENE. HE SEES NO CHANCE OF THIS PHENOMENON EVAPORATING IN THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

4. TALKING OF THE LOCAL CAST OF CHARACTERS, HE
PORTRAYED MALLOUM AS A GOOD, SOLID SOLIDER WITHOUT
POLITICAL SENSE; VICE PRESIDENT DJIME AS A MAN WITH
ALL OF THE MOVES OF A POLITICIAN BUT WITH NO AMBITION;
AND KAMOUGUE AS THE ONLY APPARENT QUOTE LEADER
UNQUOTE, BUT ONE THAT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO
IN ANY COMPROMISE GOVERNMENT.

5. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, HE INDICATED THAT
HE THOUGHT SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT NOW BE PREPARED TO
FINANCE U.S. EQUIPMENT FOR CHAD. HE EXPRESSED THE
HOPE THAT WE WOULD BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH FRANCE
IN THE SUPPORT OF THE QUOTE CHADS OF AFRICA UNQUOTE.
HE SAID THAT HE REALIZED FRANCE MUST PLAY THE LEADER-
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SHIP ROLE AND PROVIDE THE MANPOWER, BUT HE HOPED
WE WOULD ADD OUR PRESTIGE, SANCTION, AND EQUIPMENT.

6. I LEAVE FURTHER DISTRIBUTION OF THIS MESSAGE
TO THE DISCRETION OF THE DEPARTMENT. BRADFORD
UNQUOTE NEWSOM

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NNN

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